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SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AF/S GABRIELLE MALLORY
STATE FOR INR/AA

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TAGS: PGOV KDEM MI
SUBJ: CABINET RESHUFFLED; OPPOSITION "REBEL" LEADERS JOIN
GOVERNMENT

1.(U) Summary: President Bingu wa Mutharika has reshuffled his Cabinet, bringing aboard three prominent opposition leaders and sacking three ministers. The changes have affected almost every ministry, as a number of ministers have been moved, three new positions created, and eight new ministers brought on board. The embattled Vice President, who is still under house arrest for treason charges, has been dropped from Cabinet. End summary.

¶2. (SBU) Two leaders in the opposition Malawi Congress Party (MCP), Shadow Minister of Finance Ted Kalebe and Shadow Minister of Health Bitony Kutsaira, have joined government as deputy ministers in the ministries of Finance and Agriculture. United Democratic Front (UDF) Treasurer General Bob Khamisa has also joined government as Minister of Home Affairs.

¶3. (U) Minister of Health Hetherwick Ntaba, a long-time politician who has served as Minister in all three of Malawi's presidential administrations, headlines the list of those let go. Minister of Trade and Private Sector Development Martin Kansichi and Deputy Minister of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment Jimmy Banda were also fired.

¶4. (U) The Minister of Foreign Affairs Davies Katsonga has been moved to Minister of Defense, a position that the President had previously held. Taking his place is former Minister of Gender, Joyce Banda. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marjorie Ngaunje, has been promoted to Health Minister, and the new Deputy Minister is Henry Mumba, former Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

¶5. (U) The President has created new positions of Minister of State in the Office of the President, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Deputy Minister of Local Government. The Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology has also been combined with the Ministry of Trade and Private Sector Development to create the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development. The total number of cabinet positions has increased to thirty-seven, including the president.

¶6. (SBU) Comment: Convincing Kalebe and Kutsaira to join cabinet has to be considered a political coup for the President. While both have been vocal in their disagreements with MCP leader John Tembo, they were both valued front-benchers in the opposition. They also have been considered leaders of the "young" MCP members pushing for a leadership change within the party. The real questions will be whether or not the two can bring along any other MCP members to the government side, which might push Mutharika's party toward a

majority in parliament.

17. (SBU) For their part, neither Ntaba nor Kansichi are Members of Parliament, and were likely replaced in an effort to add parliamentary support to government ahead of the opening of next Tuesday's budget session. Outside of these changes, however, the President's general shuffling of portfolios seems to be more about shaking things up throughout the cabinet, rather than specifically demoting or promoting individuals. End Comment.

18. Cabinet Appointments

Minister of State for Statutory Corporations
Elizabeth Aipira [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Statutory Corporations)

Minister of State in the Office of the President
Richard Msowoya [DPP] (New)

Minister of Finance
Goodall Gondwe [DPP] (Reappointed)

Deputy Minister of Finance
Ted Kalebe [MCP] (New)

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security
Uladji Mussa [DPP] (Reappointed)

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security
Bintony Kutsaira [MCP] (New)

Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Joyce Banda [DPP] (former Minister of Gender, Child Welfare

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& Community Development)

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Henri Mumba [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Food Security)

Ministry for Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development
Dr. Ken Lipenga [DPP] (former Minister of Labor & Vocational Training)

Deputy Ministry for Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development
Rashid Gaffar [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Transport & Public Works)

Minister for Energy, Mines and Natural Resources
Henry Chimunthu Banda [DPP] (Reappointed)

Deputy Minister for Energy, Mines and Natural Resources
Ernest Malenga [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Local Government & Rural Development)

Minister for Local Government and Rural Development
Dr. George Chaponda [DPP] (Reappointed)

Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development
Callista Chimombo [DPP] (New)

Minister for Transport and Public Works
Henry Mussa [DPP] (Reappointed)

Deputy Minister for Transport and Public Works
Charles Mchacha [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Health)

Minister for Economic Planning and Development
David Faiti [DPP] (Reappointed)

Minister for Education and Vocational Training

Anna Kachikho [DPP] (former Minister of Home Affairs & Internal Security)

Deputy Minister for Education and Vocational Training
Roy Commsy [DPP] (former Deputy Minister Home Affairs & Internal Security)

Minister for Irrigation and Water Development
Sidik Mia [DPP] (Reappointed)

Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Water Development
Frank Mwenifumbo [DPP] (Reappointed)

Minister for Defence
Davis Katsonga [DPP] (former Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Minister for Information and Tourism
Patricia Kaliati [DPP] (Reappointed)

Deputy Minister for Information and Tourism
John Bande [DPP] (Reappointed)

Minister for Lands, Housing and Surveys
Henry Phoya [DPP] (former Minister of Justice & Constitutional Affairs)

Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Surveys
Symon Vuwa Kaunda [DPP] (New)

Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security
Bob Khamisa [UDF] (New)

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security
Khumbo Kachale [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Defense)

Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs
Bazuka Mhango [RP? DPP?] (former Minister of Lands, Housing & Surveys)

Minister for Labour and Social Development
Khumbo Chirwa [DPP] (former Minister of Industry, Science & Technology)

Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Development
Davie Ngulinga [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Education)

Minister for Health
Marjorie Ngaunje [DPP] (former Deputy Minister of Foreign

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Affairs)

Deputy Minister for Health
Aaron Sangala [DPP] (New)

Minister for Women and Child Development
Kate Kainja-Kaluluma [MCP? DPP?] (former Minister of Education)

Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture
Jaffalie Mussa [UDF] (Reappointed)

Minister for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly
Clement Khembo [DPP] (New)

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